

October 2, 2003

can enjoy her cherished pastimes of wine tasting and traveling. However, if I know Joan, I am sure we have not witnessed the last of her talents. She will always be a powerful and unyielding voice for children.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate Joan's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional woman. May we all be fortunate to wake up for many days to come and appreciate the simplicity of a better life that Dr. Joan Paton Acosta has secured for our children.

NEW FREEDOM COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH RESOLUTION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution regarding the report by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and adopt the goals and recommendations of the Commission's report. As we commemorate Mental Illness Awareness Week, we must take steps to implement these goals and ensure affordable, accessible, and high quality mental health care for all Americans.

I commend the Commission for their insightful and informative report. Almost one quarter of all Americans currently suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder, but a only small fraction of them actually receive the treatment they need. This is unacceptable. The Commission's report provides us with six key goals and corresponding recommendations that will help ensure that all Americans who need mental health services receive them in an effective manner.

The goals of the Commission are as follows:

- (1) To help all Americans understand that mental health is essential to overall health;
- (2) To make mental health care consumer and family driven;
- (3) To eliminate disparities in mental health services;
- (4) To make early mental illness screening, assessment, and referral to services common practice;
- (5) To ensure delivery of excellent mental health care and acceleration of mental illness research; and
- (6) To use technology to access mental health care and information.

It would be a tragedy to ignore the Commission's report and its sensible recommendations. Every year we lose approximately 30,000 lives in the U.S. to suicide. Every year we lose millions of dollars in lost productivity due to mental illness. Many of these lives and dollars could be saved if high quality mental health services were accessible to all.

I call upon all of my colleagues in Congress and my friends in the Administration and in the mental health advocacy community to work together and take the necessary steps to implement the Commission's goals and dramatically improve mental health care in this Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN ON FORTHCOMING NATIONAL DAY

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Taiwan on its forthcoming National Day. In recent years, Taiwan has impressed the world with its spectacular economic and political accomplishments. Even though Taiwan has many challenges ahead, I am confident Taiwan will continue to prosper both economically and politically now and in the future.

HONORING WAYNE AND JO HITCHCOCK

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful individuals who dedicated their lives to defending America and helping those who fought for our freedom.

Wayne and Jo Hitchcock were long-time constituents and close friends of mine. Wayne was an Army Air Corps tail gunner who flew missions over Hungary during World War II. He was shot down during his 14th mission and subsequently spent 13 months as a prisoner-of-war in Stalag 17B, which was liberated by Patton's Third Army in May of 1945. Wayne received the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf, the European Campaign Medal with four stars, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his heroism.

Wayne returned to his native Indiana after the war and became a homebuilder, land developer, and real estate broker. He also returned to government service and retired after serving as a postmaster for 23 years. He then moved to Florida where he and Jo devoted themselves to helping ex-prisoners of war.

I met Wayne and Jo before I was first elected to Congress. I am glad I did. They helped educate me about the many issues important to those who served our country in uniform, especially ex-prisoners of war. They brought to my attention an inequity which penalized the survivors of veterans who were completely disabled at the time of their deaths but whose deaths were not the result of their service-connected disability. To receive the benefits to which they were entitled, these widows had to meet requirements far above those of their counterparts whose husbands died as a result of their service-connected disability. I introduced legislation, which eventually became law, to fix this problem after Wayne and Jo brought it to my attention.

Wayne and Jo were actively involved with the American Ex-Prisoners of War, serving on various committees and posts at the department. Wayne eventually served as the Senior Vice Commander and as the National Legislative Chairman and Legislative Reporter. He became National Commander in 1997. He also was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans.

In addition to their work for ex-prisoners of war, Wayne and Jo also were very active in

many volunteer and charitable organizations in the community. Wayne was a forty-year member of Lions International and was Boy Scout Master for more than 20 years. Jo spent her time running from meeting to meeting of the many charitable organizations to which she belonged. After Wayne's death in 1999, she also served as president of a local Ex-POW chapter until her death earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, Wayne and Jo Hitchcock were two outstanding individuals who loved their country and those who fought for it. They made this country better for ex-prisoners of war and for the many people with whom they came into contact. I miss them both, as do the many people who are forever indebted to them.

SUPPORTING THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to the Immigrant Freedom Ride. These immigrants have crossed the country to ask Congress to allow them a process for naturalization, increase the number of visas for family reunification, and to protect the civil and labor rights of immigrants.

Immigrants need a process to earn legal status. These immigrants work hard, pay taxes, and want to be productive legal members of our society.

Many immigrants live in solitude. Work and send their money home so that their children and families can survive. That is why immigrants need more visas so we can reunite families. No parent should be forced out of necessity to miss out on the life of his or her child.

And, we must protect the civil rights of all immigrants—including the undocumented. Too many immigrant workers are fired if they speak up about labor violations. Labor protections should apply to all workers, not just citizens. These demands are just.

Immigrants break their backs picking our fruits and vegetables, building our homes, and making our clothes. But, they will no longer be silent. They demand fair treatment.

This is a wakeup call. Immigrants are angry and will not be silent anymore.

I support the ideals of the Immigrant Freedom Ride and aim to help immigrants achieve these goals.

HONORING DOCTOR DAWOOD FARAH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dawood Farahi on his inauguration as the seventeenth president of Kean University. Dr. Farahi was inaugurated on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at the Wilkins Theatre on the campus of Kean University.

On February 24, 2003, the Kean University Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr.